HLS 09RS-828 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

SCHOOLS: Requests BESE to study standards it uses to approve alternative education programs as such standards relate to providing sufficient counseling services and security

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study 3 standards it uses to approve alternative education programs as such standards relate 4 to providing sufficient counseling services and appropriate security and to submit a 5 written report of its findings, including any recommendations for legislation relative 6 to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on 7 Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2010 Regular 8 Session. 9 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:416.2(A)(1) provides that certain students suspended or 10 expelled from school shall remain under the supervision of the governing authority of the 11 city, parish, or other local public school system taking such action using alternative 12 education programs for suspended and expelled students approved by the State Board of 13 Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); and 14 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:416.2(C) provides that alternative education programs may 15 mean programs designed to offer variations of traditional instructional programs and 16 strategies for the purpose of increasing the likelihood that students who are unmotivated or 17 unsuccessful in traditional programs or who are disruptive in the traditional school 18 environment remain in school and obtain a high school diploma; and 19 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:416.2(C) further provides that alternative programs may include 20 programs that hold students to strict standards of behavior in highly structured and controlled

1 environments, sometimes referred to as "boot camps", "police schools", or "court schools";

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WHEREAS, there is some concern about the standards that BESE uses when

4 approving alternative education programs, particularly as related to the provision of adequate

5 counseling services and security; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that issues relative to the standards used by BESE when approving alternative education programs be carefully reviewed and analyzed in order to

ensure the safety and educational success of the students of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study standards it uses to approve alternative education programs as such standards relate to providing sufficient counseling services and appropriate security and to submit a written report of its findings, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2010 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state superintendent of education.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Requests BESE to study the standards it uses to approve alternative education programs as such standards relate to providing sufficient counseling services and appropriate security and to submit a written report of findings, including recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House and Senate education committees at least 60 days prior to the 2010 R.S.